

Capsule 29

APR-JUN 1993

Fair Himalaya

To scale down the majestic Himalaya with all its variety to a floor area of a puny 650 sq. mtrs. is no easy task. But this was exactly what was done by BITM, Calcutta. And it was their vast bank of understanding and experience that made the Exhibition on the Himalayas, the success that it was.



In the Adventure section

Inaugurated by Kumari Selja, Dy Minister, Ministry of Human Resource and Development of Government of India, on January 22, 1993 and presided over by Capt M S Kohli, President, Indian Mountaineering Federation, New Delhi, the Exhibition was a well planned affair.

The main exhibition area consisted of 65 panels and 27 exhibits which explained the geology, geography, anthropology, flora & fauna, pilgrimage



Himalayan fauna excites a young visitor

spots, ecology & environment, adventure tourism, mountaineering in the Himalayas. Strategically located video monitors gave an audio-visual demonstration of the various interesting places of the Himalayas, the lively culture of the people, even a glimpse of the various expeditions. Young people were given a taste of mountaineering as they tried to conquer the artificial rock wall



At the artificial rock

created specially for the exhibition.

But what really added colour and glamour to the exhibition was the Himalayan Craft Mela organised on the premises of the BITM itself. Almost every Himalayan tribe from India was represented here – their canvas kiosks a veritable treasure house. The craftsmen and artists gave live



Viewers mesmerized by rock climbing gear

demonstrations of their versatile art forms like wood carving, painting, scroll making, textile and dress making, etc, working quietly and expertly despite the throngs of curious onlookers. Even though the Himalayan Exhibition extended over a month and concluded on February 21, many a Calcuttan regretted the end of the Exhibition and hoped to see more of it later on.

Three Scientists

Initiated as a part of the National Science Day programme, the Exhibition on the three eminent scientists was organised by the BITM, Calcutta between Feb 28 and Mar 14. It is a matter of great interest that



Panel display on P C Mahalanobis

between 1993 and 1994, India will be celebrating the birth centenary of three great scientists of India - Prof. P C Mahalanobis (b. June 29, 1893), Prof. M N Saha (b. Oct. 6, 1893) and Prof. S N Bose (b. Jan. 1, 1894).

Inaugurated by Prof. P K Bose, ex-pro vice-chancellor, Calcutta University, the exhibition highlighted the lives and works of the three scientists.

Thirteen panels were devoted to each of the scientists that explained not only the chronological profile of every scientist, their childhood and early and higher educations but also explained their individual achievements (Mahalanobis's application of D2 statistics, Saha's thermal ionisation, Bose's Boson); side by side there was also details

like Mahalanobis's concept of national planning, his association with Rabindranath Tagore and his untiring efforts to set up the Indian Statistical Institute, Saha's contribution to the field of astrophysics, his efforts behind setting up of the Institute of Nuclear Physics in Calcutta and the setting up of the first cyclotron machine in India, his pioneering work in calendar reform, contributions to the implementation of Damodar Valley Project; Bose's epoch-making correspondence with Albert Einstein, his life as a teacher and his untiring crusade to popularise science education in one's mother tongue.

The exhibition brought to light many little known facts of the lives and achievements of the three scientists and served as a source of inspiration to the present young generation. And above all, the exhibition highlighted the fact that all the three scientists, in spite of their international fame and demand, never withdrew themselves from the task of building a better India.



Panel Display on M N Saha

New Exhibit

Movement of Bone Joints

The workshop at VITM, Bangalore has developed a participatory exhibit named "Movement of Bone Joints" to be displayed at the Motion Gallery of Regional Science Centre, Tirupati.



Supported by bone and activated by muscle, the human body enjoys an incredibly wide range of movement. The boundaries of mobility are broad and the limitations relatively few. Some 656 muscles and 206 bones combine to work the astonishingly versatile human body. The unparalleled versatility becomes possible because in the human body bones are connected by typical joints viz. (1) Pivot Joint (2) Hinge Joint (3) Ellipsoid Joint (4) Ball & Socket Joint (5) Gliding Joint and (6) Saddle Joint. The exhibit explains these joints and their functions in an easily understandable manner.

SCIENCE FAIR

Eastern India Science Fair

It was not merely a thematic representation of Science and Technology for National Development but an expression of the great potential of junior and senior students of schools from every corner of eastern India. Beginning from District Level Science Fairs through State Level Science Fairs and culminating in the grand spectacle of the Eastern India Science Fair, students showed a wide and knowledgeable understanding of the problems facing our society and gainfully applied themselves to develop ways and means that would alleviate many of our shortcomings. The eighteenth Eastern India Science Fair held between February 8 and 13 was organised by BITM, Calcutta at their own premises. More than 400 students from the 10 eastern Indian states displayed original hand-crafted models covering a wide range of subjects – solar cells, water filters, burglar alarms, alarm to warn against boat capsizing, energy from garbage, geotextile - depicting innovativeness,

using only basic science but no professional aid. The Fair was inaugurated by Subhas Chakraborty, Minister for Tourism and Sports and Youth Services, Govt of West Bengal. Dr Bikash Sinha, Director of BARC and Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics gave away prizes to winners. Ramesh Magra, H S School, Daporijo, Arunachal Pradesh won first prize for his model manual water lifting system.

Western India Science Fair

The fifth Western India Science Fair held between Nov 25 and 29, 1992 showed a vast improvement over the four earlier fairs. Attended by students and teachers from many schools of all the states and union territories of western India, the Fair exhibited projects prepared by students and also making of innovative and interesting teaching aids. While students participated in quiz competitions, workshops and work experience sessions, both students and general public were treated to educational but enjoyable programmes like lectures on computers, mini planetarium shows, anti-superstition demonstrations, scientific toy making, paper craft and origami, sky watching, etc. Inaugurated by Dr B A Dasannacharya of Bhaba Atomic Research Centre, Bombay, the valedictory lecture was delivered by Dr S S Kapoor of the same organisation. There were



Sources of Energy are an amazing phenomenon

a lot of prizes won in all competitive categories and also visits to various places of scientific and historical importance in and around Bombay.

District Science Fairs

District Science Centres at Gulbarga (western India) and at Purulia (eastern India) held two small but interesting science fairs at their own places, between Dec 3 and 5, 1992 and Jan 30 and Feb 1, 1993, respectively. In these Fairs, efforts were directed to popularise science and related activities among the local rural people. And the response and enthusiasm showed by these people adequately demonstrated the effective communicative skill of these district science centres.



Explaining the intricacies of the model on display



Participants and guests interact at the fair

SCIENCE CENTRE NEWS

NSC, Bombay

In collaboration with Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay, an exhibition on Health & Cancer was organised by NSC. Inaugurated by Mrs Jaya Bachchan, Chairperson for National Society of Films for Children and presided over by Dr P K Iyengar, former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, the exhibition attempted to explain various myths and facts on cancer. Featuring 75 panels in English and Marathi, two comic strip characters – Super Smiley and Cruel Kurk – dissuade school children from smoking or chewing paan, a message that may well apply to adults too. The exhibition put up on Feb 9 will continue well into June.

VITM, Bangalore

The ever popular university level college science seminar on the theme We and the Ocean was held on two occasions at St. Agnes College, Mangalore (Jan 28) and at VITM's own auditorium (Feb 28). The latter was conducted at the inter university level.



Demonstration given by a participant at the state-level seminar

BITM, Calcutta

The exhibition on Alternative Energy Devices (Jan 8-23) was organised by BITM in collaboration with IREP Cell, Development & Planning Department, Govt of West Bengal. Inaugurated by Binoy Krishna Chowdhury,



IREP exhibition pavilion

Minister for Development & Planning and Land & Land Reforms, Govt of West Bengal, the exhibition highlighted the possible applications of various



Visitors gain hands-on experience at IREP exhibition

renewable energy resources and the popularisation of renewable energy devices as alternative to the conventional fossil fuels. Dr Asim Kumar Dasgupta, Finance Minister, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest.

Communication: The risks and hopes was the theme of the



Visiting teachers at the exhibition on Communication

scientific exhibition and audio-visual programme jointly organised by BITM and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the premises of the BITM (Feb 26 – Mar 7). The exhibition explored the limits of technological marvels and examined the problems and perspectives in different areas of communication through 24 colourful posters and a few video films.

RSC, Lucknow

RSC, Lucknow have held some very pertinent programmes relating to contemporary problems of our society. The Training cum Workshop on Safe Motherhood and Infant Health Hazard (Feb 4) held in collaboration with Parivar Seva Sanstha covered topics like problems of health, AIDS, youth problems, etc. The National Seminar on Environmental Pollution (Feb 6) organised with help from Society for Environmental Pollution Control brought to light environmental hazards and practical means of curbing the same to a tolerable limit. The three day Seminar cum

Workshop on Spearheading Youth Health (Mar 15-17) organised along with Family Planning Association of India, Lucknow, found students discussing in all seriousness like drug addiction among youth and its remedies, AIDS and its prevention, nutritional diet and health consciousness, etc. Group discussion, role play, slide shows supplemented the workshop.

DSC, Gulbarga

The week long Anniversary celebration (Jan 6-12) was well attended and included seminar for graduate students on 'We and the Ocean', a mathematics olympiad, health quiz and a district level science quiz, etc. The Community Science Programme was organised with the help of St John's Blood Bank, Gulbarga (Feb 9) and included an exhibition cum film show on the topic AIDS. The two day science workshop (Mar 23-24) for rural teachers dealt with the various aspects of science popularisation.

District Science Centre, Tirunelveli

As always, DSC, Tirunelveli spend the three months of January, February and March gainfully, organising activities like science popularisation programmes, youth and teacher training programmes or community welfare programmes. The Vacation Training Programme (Dec 26, 1992 - Jan 5, 1993) was organised for students on subjects like nature study, electronics, physics and astronomy and chemistry. The Road Safety Week Celebration



Demonstrating the basics of road safety

(Jan 4-11) gave the citizens an idea of safe pedestrian and traffic rules. The Yercaud Science Festival (Jan 29-31) included planetarium shows and sky observations, table top models explaining popular science and exhibition on solar system. The simple village folk were amazed by the programme "Science vs Miracles" where they were told of the scientific principles behind the so-called miracles, organised as a part of the Youth Week Celebration. The

sixth Anniversary celebration (Feb 16-22) was devoted to imparting training for community welfare where groups of rural youth and handicapped people were trained to make television antennas, detergents and soaps, liquid blue, etc. The



Training on liquid blue preparation

Teacher Training Programme (Feb 3-13) included workshops on trades like carpentry, electrical and mechanical gadgets, etc. An orientation programme of using innovative teaching aids in classrooms and a seminar on effective classroom communication was also organised. On Feb 27, the unit celebrated the sixth birthday through seminars on 'Computers in day to day life' and 'Artificial Intelligence', an exhibition on theme 'Tiger', etc.



College science seminar on We and the Ocean



Assembling the model for electro-magnetic kit

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

It was the Raman Effect that captivated the world of science on Feb 28, 1928. It was on this day that Prof. C V Raman announced publicly his great discovery. In 1930, Prof. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize for it. And in 1987, Government of India took the decision to celebrate the day as National Science Day. Ever since, Feb 28 is being celebrated throughout the country in a grand manner. The various units of the National Council of Science Museums have been very busy in celebrating the day in a befitting manner. Interestingly, no matter in which part of the country the programmes were organised, it was always well attended.

BITM, Calcutta

Besides the exhibition on the lives and works of three eminent scientists, there was a week long programme involving a large number of school children and from various age groups. They participated in events like Show & Tell, Costume

Paprapdes, Open house quiz, Astronomy workshop and Video show, Sky observation and Special video shows. Besides the regular participants, the programmes were attended by a large number of enthusiastic audience.

NSC, Bombay

The week long celebration to commemorate National Science Day was organised by NSC and included lectures on Science and Miracles, Science



Eye check-up camp arranged on National Science Day

Quest, Computer Demonstrations, lectures on common eye problems and eye care, sit & draw contests, poster making and quiz competitions, etc. On the day itself, Dr M S Multani of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research delivered the C V Raman Memorial Lecture on the topic 'Nano Physics of Functional Materials'. The programme concluded with the distribution of prizes to successful competitors who had participated in the programmes of

the Centre throughout the year.

RSC, Lucknow

The five day Science Festival organised by this unit between February 24 and 28 to commemorate National Science Day was a picture of enthusiastic collaboration among the science centre, local scientific organisations and schools and colleges from UP. Dr K P Jain, Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany inaugurated the Festival while Dr Nityanand, Ex-Director Central Drug Research Institute presided over it. On the final day, R D Sonkar, Advisor to Governor of UP gave away the prizes to the students from the 25 schools and colleges who had participated in the various competitions like science models, poster making, quiz and debates and a science based on act play. The students and the audience immensely enjoyed the puppet show and magic show based on scientific themes.

RSC, Guwahati

The enthusiasm at this unit found them celebrating the National Science Day much ahead of others on Feb 26 & 27. Besides the sit & draw contest and science quiz contest, the Centre had organised special programmes on fruit preservation and



Quiz programmes are always exciting

Continued to page 8

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INC-ICOM Workshop on Exhibition Layout

At the premises of BITM, Calcutta, the Indian National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) organised a hands-on workshop on "Exhibition Layout" from March 25 to April 3, 1993. 12 participants from Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manab Sangrahashala, Bhopal, Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, Tamil Nadu Science & Technology Centre, Madras, Shrikrishna Science Centre, Patna, Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar

and Birla Industrial & Technological Museum, Calcutta participated. "Evolution of Man" was taken as the theme for the exhibition on which the participants prepared dummies of individual exhibits, fabricated scale-down dioramas and worked on preparation of perspective drawings. As a special experience design of an Industrial Hanger was taken up. The participants were also exposed to the technique of silk screen printing and photography. On the last day of the workshop a meeting was arranged with senior level Museum Curators and Directors along with participants for direct

interaction with the participants. In this particular meeting Dr Saroj Ghose, President, ICOM was kind enough to be present and gave valuable suggestions. The programme received ample support from National Council of Science Museums and the Indian Museum.



Workshop in progress

MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAMMES

Indian Museum and Alliance Francaise, Calcutta organised an exhibition on Mankind and Its Past between January 10 & 24, at the Ashutosh Birth Centenary Exhibition Hall, Calcutta. Dr Pratap Chandra Chunder, former Union Minister of Education inaugurated the programme while Professor Bharati Roy, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Calcutta University was the Chief Guest.

The Asiatic Society, Calcutta organised a Symposium on Tibetan and Sanskritic Studies on the occasion of birth centenary celebration of

Mahapandita Rahula Sankrityayana, on Mar 26, at the Society's own hall. Inaugurated by Swami Lokeshwarananda, Secretary, R K Mission Institute of Culture, Calcutta, this symposium saw participants like Prof. S Rinpoche, Prof. Anantatal Thakur, Prof. Ramaranjan Mukherjee and Dr Mahadeb Saha.

On February 7, Narahari Amin, Minister of Government of Gujarat laid the foundation stone to a new building, the first of its kind in the state, attached to the **University Museum of Sardar Patel University**. Established in

1949, the Museum was handed over to the University in 1960. In all its years of existence, the Museum has fulfilled its role as a storehouse of treasures, a fact emphasised by Dr D D Jadeja, Vice Chancellor of the University.

Kanchrapara Utsav '92 was organised at the place of the same name in West Bengal during the later part of January. A team from NCSM, Calcutta conducted astronomical shows through the portable Taramandal set and screened science films for the participants and visitors to the Utsav.

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

Continued from page 6

economic cooking in collaboration with Community Canning & Training Centre, Dispur and Assam Science, Technology & Environment Council, Guwahati.

SSC, Patna

The day long (celebrated on March 20) programme at SSC included regular programmes with interesting topics. The sit & draw competition was on The Himalaya: Reservoir of Natural Resources; the poster exhibition highlighted Energy while the popular lecture discussed High Strength Polymers.

Announcement :

The Centre for Environment Education (CEE) is conducting a programme "Environmental Education through Museums", from July 26-30, 1993 at Ahmedabad.

The programme will give educators ideas in developing and conducting environmental education activities through the on-going in-house and outreach programmes of the museum.

Participation is open to museum personnel involved in developing and conducting educational programmes for various target groups.

For more information contact :
Ms Kirtida Dixit Oza,
Coordinator TALEEM,
Centre for Environment
Education, Thalje Tekra,
Ahmedabad : 380054

DSC, Dharampur

Valsad district responded warmly to the week long celebration put up by this unit. Students and members of general public turned up in large numbers to attend the popular science lectures, science daramas, art & craft competitions, sky watching programmes, etc. Programmes like anti-superstition demonstrations, nutrition for child and mother, yoga & science papeked a lot of learning into the programme. There was also a programme on training and self employment guidance for a selected groups of youth from the district.

DSC, Tirunelveli

The Science March taken out by a contingent of 1200 students formed the mainstay of the National Science Day

celebration of this unit. On the same day, Dr G Shanmugam, Professor of Nuclear Physics, M S University, Tirunelveli, delivered a lecture on 'New Radio Activities'. The prize distribution ceremony for the competitions held during the anniversary celebration was also held on this day.

DSC, Gulbarga

The celebration was well spread over two days, Feb 27 & 28 through programmes like on-the-spot painting competition, essay competition and open-house quiz. An exhibition explained the life and works of Sir C V Raman.



Published by :
National Council of Science Museums
Block GN, Sector V, Bidhan Nagar,
Calcutta 700091, INDIA

